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THE DIAL

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THE LEGISLATIVE SYSTEMS OF IRELAND.*

The "Irish question," perhaps more than any other of the burning questions of the day, has its roots in historical causes, very subtle and obscure in character; and its solution is therefore assisted in a peculiar degree by historical study. The present difficulties cannot really be understood without an examination into their sources. No doubt this is peculiarly true of the land question, to which the attention of historical students has been chiefly directed; but it is also true of the legislative systems, which Mr. Ball has taken for his subject. And one point which especially strikes the reader of his book is this: that historical study in this field does not merely account for the existence of evils, but also throws light upon their remedies, even if this light is chiefly that of negation. The history of legislation illustrates, quite as strongly as does agrarian history, the injustice and crushing oppression under which Ireland has groaned; but it also illustrates even more clearly the baffling nature of the evils and the obstacles in the way of a remedy.

We do not know whether the author in-

*HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE SYSTEMS OPERATIVE IN IRELAND, from the invasion of Henry the Second to the Union (1173-1800). By the Right Hon. J. T. Ball, LL.D., D.C.L. New York: Longmans, Green & Co.

tended his book to serve as an argument against Home Rule; we do not remember that he makes any reference to the present issues, and certainly his tone is throughout calm and judicial. Moreover, we are far from taking the experiences here detailed as conclusive; that an experiment has failed one or more times is no argument that it will always fail. But we can see, by the practical difficulties which presented themselves when it was put in operation before, that the subject offers a problem to English statesmen which cannot be solved off-hand by any general principles. That Home Rule is in itself just, and especially that it is the only means that will bring peace and contentment to the people of Ireland,—these things we may consider as proved; but in what shape it can be adopted, so as to avoid the rocks upon which it was shipwrecked before, is a serious question.

The most interesting and valuable parts of Mr. Ball's book, it will readily be seen, are those chapters which treat of the short-lived Independence of Ireland—1782 to 1800. Here was Home Rule in actual operation. The injustice of Poyning's Act, which required all Irish legislation to emanate from the king and his council, intensified further by the Act of the Sixth of George I., which deliberately made Ireland subject to Great Britain, had culminated at last in a dissatisfaction which the liberal government at the close of the American War felt itself bound to respect. The order of things now established was to all intents and purposes a Personal Union, by which the King of Great Britain was independently also King of Ireland. But, as Pitt sagaciously pointed out, when he assumed office in 1783, the new order of things could not be regarded as "a final adjustment of the relations between the two kingdoms. It destroyed, he said, all that before existed, without substituting anything in its place" (p. 126). It was a preliminary measure; and the measure which should supplement it, and produce a "final adjustment," was never found practicable. After sixteen years of blundering and bickering, the Personal Union was abandoned, and an Organic Union took its place.

That the Union of 1801 has proved any more of a success than the previous systems of Dependence and Independence, will probably not be claimed. It remains for the statesmanship of England, at the present crisis, to devise some scheme by which the independence of Ireland in local concerns may be made consistent with her membership in the British Empire—a thing which has never yet been done.

We cannot too highly recommend Mr. Ball's book to all who wish to understand the Irish question. The early chapters might with advantage be made somewhat fuller; but the closing chapter, "Retrospect," contains a masterly summary of the whole history. An Appendix of thirty-two pages contains valuable illustration and testimony. There is also an index. The author, we must not fail to note, was Lord Chancellor of Ireland during the administration of Mr. Disraeli.

W. F. ALLEN.

THE MAKING OF A STATE.*

Of the States formed under the Constitution, Tennessee affords to a graphic writer more striking points for dramatic effects than any other, with the exception of Ohio. In some respects, there is a noticeable similarity in the history of these two States. The early settlers of Ohio were more highly cultivated than those of Tennessee; but in their experiences of pioneer life, in the possession of strong and able leaders, in their financial difficulties, and in their political divisions and triumphs, their histories are strikingly parallel. Tennessee is fortunate in having a historian who, by temperament, education, and experience, is so admirably qualified for his task as is Mr. Phelan. He has produced a work judicial in tone, broad in outline without being diffusive, yet sufficiently thorough to satisfy all demands, and in style so animated as to hold the attention of the reader to the end. Undoubtedly, Mr. Phelan's training as a journalist, and his experience in public affairs (he represents the Memphis district in Congress), have enabled him to make a better book than another writer of equal intelligence without such experience to aid him.

The work opens with a striking and picturesque chapter on the organizing and civilizing work of the Watauga Association, in an outlying settlement of North Carolina. It then takes up the romantic story of the State of Franklin, in which John Sevier is hero. The formation and growth of the State of Tennessee are fully described, with a great amount of most interesting matter connected with the early history of the State. One of the most valuable portions of the book is that in which the author deals with Tennessee's financial history. It is from such experiences that statesmen draw useful lessons, and are enabled to avoid like disastrous mistakes in shaping legislation for other generations. The pioneers of the West and Southwest not only subdued the Indians, cleared the lands for cultivation, built

towns and cities, and established a civilization of law and order, but also discovered the dangers of false and delusive financial systems.

In treating political topics, Mr. Phelan is especially at home. He gives a well written and truthful account of the rise of the Whig party, and of the partisan warfare which raged with such remarkable fury for many years between the leaders of that party and the followers of Andrew Jackson. The obstinacy and arrogance of this great Democratic leader is manifested throughout, as is his utter disregard of the proprieties and the dignity of the position of President. The history of the rise of the Whig party in Tennessee is so curious and instructive that some glimpses of the manner in which it is treated by our historian may be acceptable. In 1834, the Whig party was unknown in Tennessee; and yet, from Jackson's administration to that of Buchanan, the Whigs carried that State at every Presidential election. How this came about is told in the following extracts:

"The Whig leaders of Tennessee repelled with indignation the charge that their party had its origin in opposition to Jackson. But such was the fact. Carroll was the only prominent candidate who was opposed by Jackson who did not subsequently become a Whig. The Republicans held undisputed supremacy in Tennessee long after Clay's secession and the annunciation of his American system. Jackson was nominated by the Legislature of Tennessee on the 20th of July, 1822, for the Presidency of the United States. Between the period of the War of 1812 and this date, his influence had become paramount, and as far as personal influence, unaided by the machinery of party conventions, could control the politics of a State, he controlled the politics of Tennessee. His prejudices were strong. He was devoted to his friends. He hated his enemies, and he was suspicious of those who were indifferent. His final election to the Presidency made him politically omnipotent. Those who were excluded from his good-will were excluded from all preferment, not resting upon the direct vote of the people. . . . Jackson was an old man, and during a long and tempestuous life he had contracted many debts of personal gratitude. He became President; these were now to be liquidated. There was room for no new men, a class of politicians who are frequently hated as much in our day as in Cicero's. Young, ambitious spirits were not wanting to see that there was no place for them, unless a new order of things could be inaugurated. During Jackson's second term, circumstances arose which opened up the possibility of revolution. The number of those willing and able to lead in this movement had been steadily increasing. Not only were the Jackson men supreme, they were intolerant. Jackson not only proposed to reward his friends, but to punish his enemies. As Crockett said, 'to turn against Jackson was the unpardonable sin.' Naturally, there was much mutiny."

There is strong temptation to quote other passages showing our author's insight into the political movements of the time. His esti-

* HISTORY OF TENNESSEE. *The Making of a State.* By James Phelan. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

mates of men are shrewd and independent, and many striking and spirited portraits are contained in his pages. James K. Polk is given a higher place than he is accorded in prevalent opinion. He was an able lawyer, had been twice elected speaker of the National House of Representatives, and was "the first great stump-speaker." Against him, in 1841, the Whigs pitted James C. Jones, in the contest for Governor. Jones was a man of striking appearance, over six feet tall, with a large nose and solemn expression. "In more respects than one, he bore a remarkable resemblance to Ned Brace in the 'Georgia Scenes.' His hair was thin and curly. His mouth was extraordinarily large. His eyes were small and gray, and were shaded by heavy eyebrows." His voice was pleasant, his popularity great, and while his intelligence was not high, he "was a master of all the arts of caricature and simulation. His impressive gravity, his powers of ridicule and travesty, his anecdotes told with irresistible humor, joined to his queer figure, his capacious mouth, and his large nose, kept his audience in a state of perpetual uproar." The joint debates between Jones and Polk are thus described by Mr. Phelan:

"When the time came, there was present an audience larger than that which had collected to ratify the nomination of Harrison. According to the terms of the discussion, each speaker had two and a half hours. The speaking began at 2.30 and continued until 7.30. It was a repetition of what had taken place before. Polk made a speech that would have swept from the stump any man who had ever been Governor of Tennessee before him, and any man who was Governor after Jones until Andrew Johnson came forward. It was forcible, comprehensive, powerful, vehement, almost eloquent. Bell, with his graceful purity of speech, his thorough political equipment, his rhetorical finish, his incisive analysis and philosophic amplification, might have answered it. Foster, the impassioned, the turgid, the alert, the lofty, might have answered it. The warm imagination and impetuous and dazzling rhetoric of Gus Henry might have sustained the contest on terms not altogether unequal. But James C. Jones, who scarcely possessed a single quality here attributed to these three, did what not one of the three could have done—he completely demolished the speaker. He had no wit, he had no fancy, he had no oratorical powers, he had no knowledge, he had no great qualities of mind, he lacked everything that the others had, but he had what the others lacked, a power of ridicule and mimicry never equalled in this State. It is said that the Greeks, fearing alone the attack of the elephants which accompanied the army of Darius, put them to flight by loud alarms and great tumult. Jones met Polk and routed him by the same tactics. He made the crowd laugh until it became frantic. He twisted and distorted everything that Polk had said, until he whose thoughts and words were so perverted could not, for his life, have unravelled the maze of sophistry and nonsense. He turned serious arguments into jests, jests again into serious arguments. He discussed the spirit of an assertion

or the actual letter of it, or he jumbled both together as suited his purpose. He held out hopes of Polk becoming a Whig. And why? Because he grinned like the little fur-covered animal that had been one of the emblems in the Harrison campaign. He told the most grotesque, the most ludicrous anecdotes with a mien of funeral gravity. When at a loss for something to say, he looked solemnly toward the audience, and then turned slowly and reproachfully toward his competitor, while the crowd burst into roars of laughter at the sight. The Democrats and Polk were mortified but not surprised, when the same party which had elected Harrison President, with cabins, coons, and cider, elected Jones Governor, with anecdotes, laughter, and wagery."

WILLIAM HENRY SMITH.

RECENT ECONOMIC DISCUSSION.*

A general treatise on political economy which should include something more than metaphysical discussions of hypothetical situations of "the economic man," or extended historical narratives and elaborate statistical analyses, would indeed be a most valuable contribution to economic literature. While these methods of treatment have served and still serve a definite purpose in the development of economic science, and the occasion for their prominence at certain periods is not far to seek, it would seem that we had reached a time when it was reasonable to expect of some master-mind a systematic coördination of economic principles. We confidently hope that an economic philosopher will shortly epitomise our knowledge concerning the industrial phases of social life, and offer mankind

* *A HISTORY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY.* By John Kells Ingram, LL.D. With Preface by Prof. E. J. James, Ph.D. New York: Macmillan & Co.

PRINCIPLES OF THE ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIETY, GOVERNMENT, AND INDUSTRY. By Van Buren Denslow, LL.D. New York: Cassell & Co.

RELATION OF THE TARIFF TO WAGES. By David A. Wells. ("Questions of the Day" series.) New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

FRIENDLY LETTERS TO AMERICAN FARMERS AND OTHERS. By J. S. Moore. ("Questions of the Day" series.) New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

TARIFF CHATS. By Henry J. Philpott. ("Questions of the Day" series.) New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THE TARIFF AND ITS EVILS. By John H. Allen. ("Questions of the Day" series.) New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THE TARIFF HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. A Series of Essays. By F. W. Taussig, LL.B., Ph.D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

PROBLEMS OF TO-DAY. A Discussion of Protective Tariffs, Taxation, and Monopolies. By R. T. Ely, Ph.D. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co.

TAXATION IN AMERICAN STATES AND CITIES. By Richard T. Ely, Ph.D., assisted by John H. Finley, A.B. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co.

INDUSTRIAL LIBERTY. By John M. Bonham. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THE SOCIAL INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY. With special Reference to Contemporary Problems. By David J. Hill, LL.D. Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co.

an organized body of ideas which would bring the science of political economy more into harmony with the intellectual spirit of our century.

In his "History of Political Economy," Professor J. K. Ingram, Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, makes clear the need of a reform of method in the study of economics, and does much toward preparing the analytical basis of a classic work by his constant criticism and even judgment of the writings of the various authors treated of in this sketch of the development of economic thought. The book is practically a reprint of the article in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and, unfortunately, is written in such a cold and condensed style as to render it difficult reading for any save the most special student.

In the first portion of a work by Dr. Van Buren Denslow, entitled "Principles of the Economic Philosophy of Society, Government, and Industry," there is also presented the best fruits of economic analysis, and with a wealth of forcible illustration which would recommend the book to teachers and careful students, did it not, together with the title, conduce to entirely mislead one as to the true character of the work. To a marked acumen the author adds a most entertaining and vigorous style; but on this carefully prepared foundation he seeks to build a magnificent defence of our present tax system of customs duties. The following extract serves to indicate both the philosophy and style of this writer:

"Protection is the mountain. It is eternal. Free trade is the mirage. If it advances it dissolves. It can only make with protection the same kind of an issue as the non-existing and impossible makes with the universal, natural, and inevitable. It is a fight between something and nothing. Protection is an economy; free trade is a give-away, a waste. Protection is constructive; free trade is destructive. Free trade may be talked while one is out of office. Protection must be practiced, the instant one comes into office, or inevitable disaster ensues [to the office-holder?]. Protection investigates, consults, harmonizes, unites. Free trade disintegrates, divides, slanders, besmirches, and disorganizes. Protection collects facts. Free trade is oracular, pompous, and issues dogmas." (pp. 607-8.) The discussions throughout the latter and larger portion of this work are noticeably incomplete; the conclusions are frequently irrational, and the use of statistics quite superficial. Even the historical statements are occasionally inaccurate.

The policy of the present administration in its public utterances has made this campaign exceptionally prolific in tariff literature, but it must be confessed that Dr. Denslow's ponderous treatise compares most unfavorably with the neat little essays published by the Putnams, for instance, in the "Questions of the Day series," and written in the interest of tariff reform. It is a relief to turn to their

logical statement and sensible use of facts and figures. Mr. David A. Wells, in a characteristic series of questions and answers, entitled "Relation of the Tariff to Wages," tries to dispose completely of the pauper-labor argument for high tariff rates to maintain wages. Mr. J. S. Moore collects several newspaper articles in "Friendly Letters to American Farmers," with a view to show the folly of trying to buy a home-market by "protecting" manufacturers. This scheme is also dealt with in a clear and convincing manner by Henry J. Philpott, in "Tariff Chats," a presentation of the tariff problem "which goes straight to everybody's common-sense."

From the standpoint of the shipper and shipowner, we have an admirable and practical volume by Mr. John H. Allen, "The Tariff and Its Evils," which is designed to show how our protection does not protect national industry, but, by maintaining high war taxes in times of profound peace and of great industrial and commercial prosperity throughout the world, simply hinders healthy industrial growth and results in an utterly unjustifiable surplus.

Prof. Taussig, of Harvard, has collected, with slight revision, a number of essays on "The Tariff History of the United States," which, unfortunately, only "in some sort" cover the whole period from 1789 to date. A very satisfactory and popular statement of the principles underlying the tariff question, together with something of our history, is also given by Prof. Richard T. Ely in his "Problems of To-day." Each of these authors strives in a calm and dispassionate way to aid a little in the work of educating the American people to realize the absurdity of upholding, at least in its present grossly perverted form, that ancient device for attempting to make foreigners pay our governmental expenses and secure untold riches for the whole community by burdening the many *temporarily* for the benefit of the few. Even Prof. Ely's "Historical Continuity Tariff" hardly finds support in the other portions of his papers. If the tariff permanently affects industry only by bolstering iniquitous monopolies, clearly the sooner all protective features are utterly abolished the better for the forgotten millions who are now robbed. After explaining the relation existing between the tariff and certain monopolies, Prof. Ely develops the essentially monopolistic character of the business of supplying large cities with light, water, and various means of transportation. Written for a local purpose, this series of newspaper articles is worthy wide circulation on account of the clear and popular presentation of a most sensible view of the conditions of reform. Prof. Ely makes perfectly evident the necessity of earnest coöperation, together

with intelligent and persistent state action (emphasising particularly the latter), if we hope to promote industrial liberty, secure equal justice, and maintain local self-government in republican purity and democratic simplicity.

"Taxation in American States and Cities," by the same author, is a more pretentious work in a comparatively new field. Highly to be commended for its conception, it is to be most heartily condemned for its execrable execution. This book, says the author, aims to present an outline sketch of what exists, and to indicate the lines along which financial reform must move. But such an outline! This mass of notes, memoranda, private letters, and newspaper clippings, can hardly be said to have any outline. Valuable suggestions for the improvement of our various tax-systems, national, state, and municipal, the book must of course contain; but there is as little system in the manner of presenting them as in our methods of taxation. This has truly become a "funny world," if this volume is a fair specimen of a "practical work for practical people," conceived in "the only air congenial to the highest intellectual life." We may properly look for a *thoroughly revised* edition of the abundance of matter here collected.

An exceedingly interesting discussion of current "problems" is given in "Industrial Liberty," an essay dealing in an earnest and philosophical manner with the prominent factors and salient principles of political and social economy, and bringing the special questions of the day thoroughly to the test in profound and dispassionate analysis. The author, Mr. John M. Bonham, conceives the development of a higher civilization to lie in the direction of greater political freedom with individual sovereignty as essential to its complete idea. Social progress demands not simply equality before the law, but "before the popular power, and before any power exercised by any aggregation or delegation of the units." Only by the strong guarantee of these will the incentives to industrial enterprise continue powerful. Only with these political rights can there come the persistent efforts necessary to self-development and independence. The writer emphasises the wonderful influence of steam and electricity, disturbing the equilibrium of the body politic by their application in the arts, and resulting in the unstable state of "the thrift and confidence" of protected classes and of "the hopelessness of the unorganized, unguarded and unprotected individual;" in the utterly unrepublican development of that most unrepublican institution—the corporation; in the enormous extension of trusteeship both in the tenure and in the management of property; finally, in the complete perversion of these into "trusts." His treatment of the subject is both clear and compre-

hensive. After dealing with certain obstacles to reform, the author inveighs at length against paternalism in government—that relic of theocracy and the supernatural in our idea of the state. He argues most prominently against the present irresponsible management of quasi-public corporations, against protection to special industries, and against our public school system. This is certainly a singular grouping of the chief dangers to the Republic, but it is one which Mr. Bonham defends with force and in a most logical manner. If his premise as to the means of social progress is well taken, it seems difficult to avoid the conclusion. The hope for the future lies in the sturdy traits of character of the Anglo-Saxon. "The only present question is whether his intelligence may not be stimulated to realize the problem of his right—to overcome the antagonism to that right—before a resort to blood and demolition becomes necessary." (p. 218).

Another systematic study of contemporary social problems is made by Dr. David J. Hill in "The Social Influence of Christianity." It is a series of lectures delivered before the Newton Theological Institution, and is of value as containing a wholesome view of social life and duties, rather than as giving an account of the influence of Christ's life and teaching in reshaping social institutions during the nineteen centuries of the Christian era. Labor, wealth, marriage, education, legislation, and repression, are treated of in separate chapters; and to each the author brings the results of wide and well-chosen reading and of earnest meditation. His formula of social reform is worthy most careful study: the reconstruction or transformation of society must proceed upon a clear comprehension of the natural basis of society in the instinctive wants of man, the mode in which the human will can affect the performance of social functions, and the motives for the conformity of the popular will to the ideals of a higher social life.

ARTHUR B. WOODFORD.

THE FOLK-LORE OF THE NORTH.*

In 1883 there was published in New York, under the title of "Folk and Fairy Tales," an English translation of Peter Chr. Asbjørnsen's "Norske Huldre-Eventyr og Folkesagn," furnished with an Introduction by that eminent scholar Edmund W. Gosse, and with illustrations by the first artists in Norway. There has now appeared an American edition of Sir George W. Dasent's English translation of the "Norske Folke-Eventyr," by the same author, bearing the title of "Popular Tales from the

*POPULAR TALES FROM THE NORSE. By Sir George Webbe Dasent, D.C.L., etc. New edition. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Norse." This volume contains a group of fifty-nine of the folk and nursery tales of Norway, of which less than a dozen were included in the first named publication, and comes to us in its third edition, the first and second having been issued in Edinburgh in 1858 and 1859. We cannot help wishing that this edition of 1888 had been provided with some prefatory remarks especially addressed to American readers, in addition to the valuable Introduction of 1859, and that we might have detected some signs of a much-needed revising hand. Nevertheless, we heartily bid these wonderful stories welcome, and hope they may fulfil their mission among us as they have done elsewhere in diverse guise and under diverse circumstances.

The popular romances of Norway, the stories of the heroes and heroines, trolls, hulders, and mountain folk of various kinds, and the wild plots, all redolent with the aromatic breezes of heather and pine, that haunt the hills and valleys, forests and fjords, and occupy the imaginations of the aged, of youth and maiden, and of the smallest child of the rural districts, may be said to have been discovered and were certainly made known to the world of culture by Peter Chr. Asbjørnsen, who was born in Christiania, Norway, in 1812, and who long before his death, which was of comparatively recent date, had won a wide-spread European fame. He was the pioneer of his people in the rich realm of folk-lore. He pointed out the foundation on which to build further literary development, and it is not to be wondered at that Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, the poet, novelist, orator, political leader, and ideal chieftain of Norway, has declared that without this man his own efforts had never been. Asbjørnsen had an assistant in the lyric poet Jørgen Moe, and from boyhood these two made a pastime of writing down the tales they had heard in the nursery and the new ones they coaxed from every peasant they met in their fishing and walking excursions. The result of their joint efforts was not given to the world until 1841, although Asbjørnsen had previously printed some of the stories collected by him in a children's magazine. The genius of this "Northern Grimm," as Asbjørnsen has justly been called, was more in harmony than that of his co-laborer with fell and fjord and the simple-hearted peasants of his native land, and to him is wholly due the method of presenting these Norse stories to the reading world as nearly as possible in their natural garb,—for Moe had wished to clothe them in a more artificial way and adorn them with sundry accessories. Later, when Moe had settled down to the narrow sphere of a country parson, Asbjørnsen, whose calling of forest inspector carried him continually from one end of Norway to the other, continued to in-

crease his own experience, and took the work of collector, re-teller and editor of the tales entirely into his own hands.

A book like the present one affords a delightful pastime to the child-reader, and it serves nobly to enrich the imagination of youth; but its importance is even greater to the student of comparative mythology and folk-lore among children of a larger growth. The stories it contains show resemblance to the popular tales and traditions of many lands; they have developed in harmony with their surroundings, as have those of other countries, and like them may be traced back to the legendary lore current in Asia from a very remote period. To use the words of Dasent:

"There can be no doubt, with regard to the question of the origin of these tales, that they were common, in germ at least, to the Aryan tribes before their migration. We find those germs developed in the popular traditions of the Eastern Aryans, and we find them developed in a hundred forms and shapes in every one of the nations into which the Western Aryans have shaped themselves in the course of ages. We are led, therefore, irresistibly to the conclusion, that these traditions are as much a portion of the common inheritance of our ancestors as their language unquestionably is; and that they form, along with that language, a double chain of evidence, which proves their Eastern origin."

The hero that figures most largely in the "Norse Popular Tales" is the youngest of three or of twelve brothers. He is own brother to Cinderella, the Jack, or Boots, of English tradition. Dasent calls him "Boots" in his translation; but as this in a measure robs him of his distinct nationality, we feel inclined to protest, preferring to have him named Ashes-lad, which is a literal translation of his true name. He is the embodiment of strength, enterprise, and perseverance,—the honest worker upon whom all powers of nature smile and help him to overcome every obstacle, because he helps himself. While poking with seeming indifference in the ashes, or patiently fulfilling the menial and unpleasant tasks imposed upon him by his elders, he awaits the day when the gifts unfolding within him shall be needed. "In this way," says Dasent, "does the consciousness of a nation, and the mirror of its thought, reflect the image and personification of a great moral truth, that modesty, endurance, and ability will sooner or later reap their reward, however much they may be degraded, scoffed at, and despised by the proud, the worthless, and the overbearing."

Ashes-lad appears in matchless radiance in the charming story of "The Princess on the Glass Hill" (p. 92), in which we find the Nibelung story in a nutshell, and in which the glorious princess sits on a giddy height awaiting the coming of the conquering hero who is to release her, as Brynhild awaited the com-

ing of Sigurd on the Glittering Heath, and as Draupadi in the Mahābhārata awaited the victorious bow of Arjuna. Shaking off his rags, ashes, and appearance of sloth, our hero, on mysterious coursers, obtained through his vigilance and skill, three times scales the hillside, smooth and slippery as glass could well be, and showing himself to the maiden, successively in mail coats and trappings of copper, silver, and glittering gold, wins from her the priceless treasure of her golden apples, her lily white hand, and half the kingdom. In the Icelandic sagas we find Norsemen called Kolbitr, coalbiters, because it was their wont to sit brooding over the fire when there was no cause for action, but when the time was ripe they became men of renown. In stirring up the ashes, these heroes, like those of the stories, revealed the bright light of the fire, and it illuminated the thoughts and plans working within their breasts.

Another prominent figure in these Norse stories is the Troll, a monstrous one-eyed Ogre, who is sometimes represented with one head and sometimes as many-headed, and is the true descendant of the frost-giants of Norse mythology. As Thor slew these, so our Ashes-lad overcomes the Trolls, which, as well as their prototypes, represent the chaotic forces of nature that must either be destroyed by the beneficent powers, or tamed and utilized, that harmony may be produced. Quite smooth-tempered, and ready to lend a helping hand to the race of man, seem these Trolls when unprovoked, an ' hugely simple-minded and easy to be outwitted they are. Like the last living representatives of some almost extinct race, in whose bosoms still linger remnants of the virtues and valuable experiences of former times, they may teach the present generation the lessons of the Past; although powerless to make progress themselves, they are terrible when excited to wrath and dangerous when opposed, like all thwarted powers of nature. In the story called "Boots and the Troll" (p. 215), Ashes-lad passes through adventures similar to those of the hero in the English nursery tale of "Jack and the Bean Stalk," and the harp he steals is the harp of Hermes or of Orpheus, the voice of the wind, the myriad-tongued voice of nature. And we find the being capable of playing on this harp in the "Master Thief" (p. 232),—a lad well fitted to produce sad havoc among oxen and men as Phœbus Apollo himself.

In many of the stories,—as in "Tatterhood" (p. 345), "The Two Step-Sisters" (p. 113), "East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon" (p. 22), "The Twelve Wild Ducks" (p. 51), etc.,—we find true womanly maidens who forget themselves in their readiness to help others, who tread gently over the hedge, tenderly handle sheep and cow, all out of good-

ness of heart, who sacrifice all they most prize for the good of those dear to them, who hear and heed the voices of the little birds and all other voices of nature, choose the right casket, and after many trials receive a glorious reward. Reverence for woman is common to all branches of the Teutonic race. In Norse mythology the mother of gods and men is held in the same respect as their father. As Odin instructs men in the arts of war, so Frigg instructs womankind in the domestic arts. When Christianity and heathendom became blended the attributes of Mother Frigg, of Freyja, the goddess of love, of the three Norns, these weavers of the destinies of humanity who are plainly mirrored in "The Three Aunts" (p. 193), and of sundry minor personifications of the same ideals, were bestowed on the Mother of Jesus, whom we find represented, as in "The Lassie and Her Godmother" (p. 188), as the guardian of the sun, moon, and stars, the wise friend who could even inflict sharp punishment on her favorites in view of securing their best welfare. The forbidden rooms in this story, like those in "The Widow's Son" (p. 311), are like the treasure-house of the Greek myths of Ixion or Tantalus, or the large-vaulted sandal-perfumed room of "The Third Calendar" in the "Arabian Nights," or the forbidden door to the Land of Happiness in Grimm's "Woodcutter's Child." The story of the forbidden chambers in "Blue Beard" is but a distorted version of those of the Norse stories, as the blood that could never be wiped away is a corruption of the red gold that clung to the finger dipped into the kettle in "The Widow's Son." The mysteries of the palace of the Holy Grail in Wagner's "Parsifal" are of like nature with these secret rooms that must not be idly or wantonly explored.

The love of the Norseman for his horse is exemplified in "Dapplegrim" (p. 272), who, with his mate, recalls the two Aswins, or dawn-steeds of Sanskrit lore; the Hengist and Horsa, those famous twin hero steeds of the Anglo-Saxon migration; and the noble steeds of the Norse Eddas and Sagas. The horse Dapplegrim saves his master from all perils and leads him to fortune. Another friend of the deserving is the Dun Bull in "Katie Woodencloak" (p. 357), from whose ear comes the "Wishing Cloth," which serves up the choicest dishes, and who may readily be traced back to the primitive Aryans, among whom the bull represented masculine perfection.

But we have left unmentioned "The Husband Who Was to Mind the House" (p. 269), in which men are taught to respect the household cares of their wives; and "Rich Peter Pedlar," in which an infant committed to the waves in a well-closed casket floats down the stream to fame and fortune, like Karna in the Hindu epic and Sigfrid in the Vilkinsa saga;

and "Soria Moria Castle" (p. 396), so glorified by Ibsen in his "Peer Gynt;" and many more exquisite tales that space forbids us to discuss. We commend them all to the reader's attention, and promise a rich feast to him who will make the acquaintance of these "Norse Popular Tales." A complete superbly illustrated edition of Asbjørnsen's stories is now being published in the original tongue. We should be glad to see it presented to the American reading world.

AUBERTINE WOODWARD MOORE.

RECENT FICTION.*

It would now be rather late to write of "Robert Elsmere," were that novel an ordinary work of fiction; but its very remarkable merits may excuse a few words of criticism even at the present date. The fact is that, although "Robert Elsmere" was published several months ago, it was not, for some reason or other, generally supplied to American readers until comparatively recently. It is certainly the strongest novel of the year; probably it is not too much to say of it that it is the strongest novel of the past decade. We do not recollect anything since the publication of "John Inglesant" which is fairly comparable with it for style or creative power. With this general praise there must go, however, the confession that the work seems to fall considerably short of artistic perfection in being made to so great an extent the medium of a philosophical discussion. It may be argued, it is true, that the characters are naturally drawn and that they speak just as such characters may be expected to speak; there still remains a feeling that the element of discussion enters rather too largely into the construction of the work, that there is too much of it for the best artistic effect, too much even for the accomplishment of what is evidently the primary purpose of the author—that of presenting to and impressing

forcibly upon her readers the critical teachings of "Literature and Dogma." The discussion is very forcible, it is true, and the reasoning most cogent; but it gives to the book the atmosphere of the critical essay rather than the atmosphere of the novel. Now it is possible for the novel or the poem to work far more potently than any other species of literature in the moulding of the intelligence; but this can only be done by a concealment of motive. The reader must not be made to feel that there are designs upon him. In reading "Robert Elsmere" he does feel that there are designs upon him, and is made suspicious and resentful thereby. If he be one to whom the *Zeitgeist* has spoken, and not in vain, he will get little profit from so much insistence upon matters which for him have been cleared up long ago. If, on the other hand, he be still armored in the carapace of old-fashioned and rigid beliefs, he will be apt to fortify himself all the more carefully at sight of what is obviously an organized attack upon his defences. Apart from this criticism (which is rather technical, after all,) "Robert Elsmere" deserves almost unqualified praise. It is a studied and earnest production throughout, appealing to the higher intelligence and the higher sympathies. While strikingly English in its temper,—so much so that the reader is all the time conscious of race kinship with its author,—it touches interests that are wider than those of any one people; interests that at the same time are peculiarly vital to the thinking world of to-day. It is in this fact that its power chiefly lies; in this, and in the delicacy of the touch and the depth of the underlying human sympathy.

The title of Mr. Black's latest novel tells the whole story. Readers of "The Strange Adventures of a Phaeton" do not need to be told what "The Strange Adventures of a House-Boat" is like. The vein which Mr. Black has opened in these novels is capable of indefinite exploitation. We would suggest for his further consideration the "strange adventures" of a Sociable Tricycle or an Erratic Balloon. The cruise of the house-boat with which the present novel is concerned is made through the rivers and canals of southwestern England; its adventures are the reverse of startling, and there is the usual love-story brought to a happy consummation in the last chapter. One of the most amusing features of the book is the account of a young writer who discourses upon critics in a fashion worthy of Mr. Edgar Fawcett in his most embittered mood, and ends by becoming a critic himself. Mr. Black's heroine is an American girl with a pronounced tendency towards flirtation. The type is admirably truthful in most respects, although some of the witticisms in

*ROBERT ELSMERE. By Mrs. Humphry Ward. New York: Macmillan & Co.

THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF A HOUSE-BOAT. By William Black. New York: Harper & Brothers.

IN HOT HASTE. By Mary E. Hullah. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

WITH THE IMMORTALS. By F. Marion Crawford. New York: Macmillan & Co.

THE GUARDIANS. By the Authors of "A Year in Eden" and "A Question of Identity." Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

THE McVEYS (AN EPISODE). By Joseph Kirkland. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

THE GRAYSONS. By Edward Eggleston. New York: The Century Co.

REMEMBER THE ALAMO. By Amelia E. Barr. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

NINETTE. AN IDYLL OF PROVENCE. By the Author of "Vera." New York: D. Appleton & Co.

AN ICELAND FISHERMAN. By Pierre Loti (Julien Viaud). Translated from the French by Clara Cadot. New York: William S. Gottsberger.

which the young woman indulges are in questionable taste. The story makes very pleasant reading for an idle summer day.

"In Hot Haste" is a pretty little story of German life and love. It is carefully told and with considerable spirit. For the rest, it is made up of the conventional elements. There is a picturesque old castle inhabited by a decayed family. There is a maiden, of course, and a dissolute lover. There is also an ancestral feud finally brought to its end by the marriage of the descendants. To this happy consummation there are the usual obstacles, and the story is drawn out to a fitting length thereby. Miss Mary S. Hullah is the writer.

"With the Immortals" is a series of conversations between such distinguished persons as Julius Cæsar and Dr. Johnson, Heinrich Heine and Blaise Pascal, on the one hand, and a small family party of cultured English people on the other. The English family occupies an ancient castle on the southern shore of the Sorrentine peninsula, and certain electrical experiments of a member of this family have the astonishing effect of evoking from the shades the spirits of the famous dead just mentioned. The somewhat mixed society that results spends a number of days in discussing the various problems that perplex mankind, very much as the characters in Mr. Crawford's other novels discuss them. We cannot say that the author has been very successful in his ambitious attempt. His shades have much of the speech and manner of commonplace moderns. With some—such as Dr. Johnson and Heine—he has been rather more successful than with others; but he does not seem to have been able to identify himself very fully with any one of them.

The thin veil of anonymity which covers the authorship of "The Guardians" does not serve as a concealment for one of the two writers of whose coöperation the work is the product. The title-page informs us that it is by the authors of "A Year in Eden" and "A Question of Identity." As the former of these two novels is published under the author's name, we divulge no secret in assigning to Harriet Waters Preston a share in the production of the work before us. We should judge, from the internal evidence of the story, that her share was the larger of the two; but the workmanship is so deftly joined that any attempt at a precise statement of the part of each writer would be futile. The story is but moderately interesting. It is domestic in character, and its incidents are mostly threadbare. It is chiefly attractive for its style, which is distinctly above the level of what we find in nine-tenths of current works of fiction.

A realism that is suggestive of Thomas Hardy, and a disregard of form that recalls Charles Reade, are the characteristics of Mr.

Joseph Kirkland's novels. "The McVeys," just published, is a sort of sequel to, or rather an amplification of, "Zury, the Meanest Man in Spring County," which we had occasion to commend about a year ago. The present novel relates in greater detail some of the events chronicled in "Zury," and adds enough others to make a book of nearly the same length. It is an exceedingly interesting story, although its realism is of the barest sort. Mr. Kirkland is a man of close observant powers, and his pictures of the life of the past generation in Illinois may be taken as entirely trustworthy. While in no sense strictly historical, these novels are of considerable historical value in their reproduction of a bygone phase of American civilization. Now and then we have, too, a bit that is historical in the more technical sense,—as in the scene which introduces the familiar figures of Lincoln and Douglas. The character of Zury appears more consistent with itself in "The McVeys" than in the earlier novel, where his development went on at a rate that the reader found it difficult to follow. In this book we have little of his "meanness" and much of the generous after-growth of his nature. We are inclined to think that the latter half of "The McVeys" contains the strongest writing that the author has done.

The reader of "The Graysons," by Mr. Edward Eggleston, finds himself in the presence of a very familiar story,—Tom Grayson, the hero, being no other than that Bill Armstrong whose trial for murder and acquittal is related in almost every biography of Abraham Lincoln. Why the writer should have given his hero a fictitious name is not very evident, unless it be that he had forgotten the real one. This supposition seems to be borne out by a statement in the preface, where Mr. Eggleston says: "It [the story] was written mostly at Nervi, near Genoa, where I could not by any possibility have verified the story I had received about 1867 from one of Lincoln's old neighbors." The writer could hardly be expected to have had a reference library with him in Italy, but still it seems singular that he should not at least have found some means of getting at one of the many lives of Lincoln. Well authenticated accounts of the incident are to be found in the works of Arnold, Browne, and others, and with these Mr. Eggleston's narrative is considerably at variance. We can hardly say that he has improved upon the true story, and, in any case, the story hardly affords sufficient material for the construction of a full-sized novel. Of course, it is filled out with many other matters pertaining to the rough life of the time in Illinois, but its descriptive scenes and characterizations are singularly colorless. Writing at a distance from his country seems to have put

the author out of touch with his subject-matter. The contrast between this work and that of Mr. Kirkland is very striking, and is distinctly favorable to the story of "The McVeys."

The title of Mrs. Barr's "Remember the Alamo" is less graceful than the story itself. The author introduces us, in this work, to the stirring times of the conquest of Texas, and one of her heroes is no less a person than the redoubtable Sam Houston. The story has little other than the historical interest, being upon the domestic side rather commonplace than anything else. But its main purpose is doubtless that of vivifying an almost forgotten page in our national history; and in accomplishing this it is fairly successful.

Unpretentious in plot and moderate in size, "Ninette, an Idyll of Provence" is distinctly a book with matter in it. It is written by the author of "Vera," and the fact that the hand which wrote it is practiced appears on every page. There is a certain care in the choice of phrase and a certain show of close observation that tend to keep the vagrant mind of the reader to his text; and yet the story is of the simplest description. A pair of peasant lovers, and the wealthy wretch whose fancy is captured by the girl and who seeks to win her by all manner of foul means, are the only characters worth mentioning. This is threadbare enough, but it acquires a fresh interest in its setting of Provencal landscape. The writer evidently knows life in southern France at first hand; her descriptions have the touch of truth, and her sympathies, if sometimes a little short-sighted, are warm and true. We should not forget to mention that the Riviera earthquake of two years ago affords a fitting catastrophe to the story and most effectively disposes of the villain.

Another idyll, this time not of Provence, but of Brittany, is presented us in the translation of Pierre Loti's "Pêcheur d'Islande." Charming as is the Provencal story of which mention has just been made, it is in every way outdone by the Frenchman's work. Between the two there is, in fact, the immeasurable distance that ever separates talent from genius. Even in the translation, imperfect a reproduction as it is, and as any translation of such a work must needs be, we may still realize the informing touch of the creative hand. Anything more delicately poetical in its interpretation of nature, more simply and purely human in its pathos, than this little sketch of the rude life of the Breton fisherman, is hardly to be met with in recent literature. What Jules Breton has done for his countrymen with the brush, and more than that, has been done by this strong, fresh workman with the pen. This is the true realism: the profound and just observation which is made use of not as in

itself an end, but rather a basis for artistic selection and arrangement, and for the play of a broad and earnest sympathy. There are things in this book that are simply haunting in their effect. There is the exercise of an admirable restraint—chief of literary virtues—that leaves unsaid what is not needful to be said. There is, in short, whatever goes to the making of noble imaginative literature.

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

ONE of the most timely of publications for the promotion of political intelligence is the edition of the "Federalist," edited by Henry Cabot Lodge, and published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. It is convenient in size, and contains, besides the essays, an introduction in which is summarized the evidence relating to the authorship of the several papers, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, and a carefully prepared Index. While Mr. Lodge is one of the most active of the Hamiltonian propagandists, he has fairly presented the conflicting claims of Hamilton and Madison as to the authorship of eighteen of the papers. He has wisely, in this edition, followed the untouched original text, and numbered the essays the same as in the McLean, or First Edition, which received the approval of Hamilton. They are thus presented in the form in which they were read by the people in the newspapers of the day in 1788, and have a distinct historical value. While commending Mr. Lodge's work, a single remark, which shows his bias towards Hamilton, invites attention. One is surprised to find so thorough an historical student as Mr. Lodge making the statement that Hamilton and Madison were "the two principal authors" of the Constitution. Madison's share indeed was great; but Hamilton had small part in the authorship of the Constitution, and after it was completed never believed it would endure. It is to his credit that, while preferring a form of government similar to the British, he patriotically advocated the new order of things. These essays, and his remarkable speeches in the New York Convention, justly entitle him to great fame; but they do not warrant his admirers in attempting to deprive others of their proper share in the authorship of what Mr. Gladstone has declared to be the most perfect work ever struck off by man. The rapid multiplication of political works is likely to lessen this hero-worship of the genius of Hamilton, and bring more prominently to the fore those able practical statesmen who constructed a charter adaptable to a small or a large Republic, and possessing within itself an enduring conservatism. The "Federalist" undertook to reconcile the differences of opinion as to the best form of government consistent with the liberties and aspirations of the people and the jealousies of the States. It exerted a powerful influence in determining the decisions in favor of a National Government as provided for in the Constitution; but it is undoubtedly true that too much credit has been given to it, and too little account taken of other influences. To study the "Federalist" apart from contemporary writings and speeches, is to get an imperfect view of the purposes of those who framed the National system.

For instance, we should be led by the arguments of Madison to contemplate a general government with very limited powers, little capable of inspiring in the citizen a patriotism sufficiently broad to resist the narrow claims of a single community. This is not the National view which one obtains in the writings of Washington, and the speeches of Wilson and McKean in the Pennsylvania Convention; and events have shown that the National view is the correct one.

How can the best literature of foreign tongues be popularized without being cheapened, and without putting a premium upon half-knowledge? Professor Albert S. Cook, of the University of California, has solved this problem with respect to a noble piece of Anglo-Saxon literature, the epic fragment of "Judith." Anglo-Saxon, or Old English as it is better called, is far from being a foreign language; but it is still, to the majority of readers, practically more foreign than German or French or Latin. The interest attaching to Old English books is mainly historical and philological,—or, to be precise, what the Germans call *Kultur-historisch*,—and in these respects this literature yields in interest for English-speaking people to none. But the Anglo-Saxon tongue can boast a few monuments of pure literature, and it is happily one of these that Professor Cook has chosen as the subject of this elegant and scholarly book. It need not frighten the general reader, if it be said that the book is perhaps primarily of value to scholars; for the introduction, the glossary, and the translation facing the text, go far towards rendering the stirring poem accessible to anyone who will take a little pains. A few evenings spent over Sweet's, or Earle's, Anglo-Saxon primer, would enable a beginner to enjoy the ringing alliteration and forceful rhythm of the original text. The translation is perhaps as literal as is consistent with preservation or imitation of the alliteration; its chief faults are too frequent sacrifices of idiom or sense or force to the alliteration. It is everywhere smooth and rhythmical, and it sometimes rises almost into the higher poetic atmosphere of the original. Whatever may be thought of the author's wisdom in submitting so unreservedly to the bondage of alliteration,—which seems so natural in Old English and so foreign to the genius of modern English,—it must be admitted that he has performed the task with considerable literary skill. One who knew nothing of Old English could form from this translation, and from the other data furnished by Professor Cook, a much more accurate idea of its literary characteristics than from any mere literary history. Take, for instance, Morley's "English Writers,"—the blank-verse rendering there given, while not without merit, is much inferior to Professor Cook's, considered as a reproduction in modern phrase of this venerable and thrilling poem. In addition to the features already mentioned, there is an autotype fac-simile of the manuscript, a grammar and prosody, several lists and indexes of great interest to special students, and an introduction containing among other things useful and interesting, a new theory of the origin of the poem. Altogether, the volume is a credit to American taste and scholarship. It ought to do much to popularize the study of that kindred tongue in which are enshrined the pathetic records of the faith, the thoughts, the struggles of our brave forebears. The publisher (Heath) and the

printer (Cushing) deserve great praise for their part in the production of this beautiful quarto, over which every real student will delight to linger.

ONE of the most valuable books that the year has produced is Samuel Epes Turner's "The Germanic Constitution" (Putnam). There has hitherto been nothing in the way of a treatise on this important subject for readers of English. The volume under consideration not only meets a demand, but it meets it in the most satisfactory way. The much-tangled subjects of the Holy Roman Empire and the Germanic Kingdom are here set apart, and the constitution of the latter is traced from the earliest days to the year 1806 in a brief yet succinct and able narrative. All students of constitutional history will hail the book as a *code mecum* through a field full of valuable treasures, yet hitherto accessible only to those who read the German language. The old Frankish monarchical constitution is set before us in its Meroving and Caroling stages, until it gives way before the pressure of advancing feudalism. The reader then is led through the first feudal period to the complete break-down of all central government, at the close of the Hohenstaufen dynasty. The second feudal period is ushered in with the resuscitation of authority under the first Hapsburg, and passes into the Reformation period with the accession of the one truly imperial prince of all the Hapsburgs—Charles the Fifth. Then follows Disintegration, from 1648 to 1793, and Dissolution, completed in 1806. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of government are clearly set before us in each stage, and with one exception the lesser sovereignties which make up the whole are kept before the reader excellently. We are sorry that the author did not trace the changing fortunes of the bench of spiritual princes as he has those of the laity, as this would have taken but little more space. It is also to be regretted that anyone should leave so good a book unprovided with an index. We are surprised, too, that an author should now write the name of the Gothic historian other than Jordanes, and that so competent a historian as Mr. Turner should speak of the Emperor Lothaire the Second as childless, and of Henry the Proud of Bavaria as his *step-son*, when it was the marriage of the already powerful Bavarian to Lothaire's daughter Gertrude, heiress of all North Germany, which began the fateful controversy between Guelph and Ghibelline. We could wish that the truly regal policy of the Saxon dynasty had been more decidedly indicated, as also the decline of the monarchy from Saxon to Franconian and from Franconian to Staufen dynasty. But these are errors or omissions of detail, which do not materially affect the value of the book as one of our most useful manuals of constitutional history.

A CONTRIBUTION to the literature of the wearisome "Irish Question" has at length been made which recognizes two sides to it, and discusses it calmly, rationally, suggestively, but principally after due information. "In Castle and Cabin" (Putnam) is the result of a four months' sojourn in Ireland, made by George Fellow of the Suffolk Bar. Mr. Fellow carried letters of introduction from prominent "Unionists," as well as from leading sympathizers with the land-leaguers—among the latter, a circular letter from the secretary of the Irish National League. All parts of the country

were visited, and, thanks to the letters, conversations were held freely which elicited every variety of expression, ranging from the views of Nationalist leaders on the one hand to those of Kerry land agents and boycotted farmers on the other. Nearly the whole volume is given to this impartial report of the opinion of the whole country-side, which is full of most interesting even if conflicting narratives. But in the last fourteen pages the author's own views are presented in a most moderate and convincing manner. The difficulty of the situation is fully exhibited; the extravagant expectations of the Nationalists are not ignored because the evils of English rule as at present carried on are admitted. The author advises, as his contribution to any solution of the question, and as a present substitute for drastic and doctrinaire enfranchisement of Ireland politically: the extension of the Local Government Bill to Ireland, which would give Home Rule where it is most needed and where it would be most felt; consultation with the Nationalist members of Parliament in all possible cases when Ireland is concerned; Irishmen in public offices; generosity united with discretion in the promotion of public works in Ireland; and finally, technical education and compulsory primary education. We believe his closing words state a truth. He says: "As the farmers become occupiers, as the laborers find employment, as the people by controlling their own local affairs learn to blame themselves rather than the English government for local discomforts, the number of Irishmen in Ireland will increase who will be perfectly contented with a measure of Home Rule far less sweeping than that proposed by Mr. Gladstone, and at the same time they will become more and more competent to operate with benefit to themselves and without injury to others any measure of Home Rule that shall be granted."

ONE result of the opening of railroad communication, by two trunk lines, between our country and Mexico, has been the rapid accumulation of literature relating to the latter country. Students of her political conditions like David A. Wells, editors like Griffin, archaeologists like Biart, compilers of guide-books like Janvier and Conkling, travellers like Bishop, Miss Sanborn, and Hannah More Johnson, not to speak of the earlier and more elaborate work of Ober, have all given the results of their observations and studies in our neighboring republic. The latest claimant to public favor is a volume entitled "Mexico, Picturesque, Political, Progressive" (Lee and Shepard), whose joint authors are Mary Elizabeth Blake and Margaret F. Sullivan. To introduce the reader to picturesque Mexico is the agreeable work allotted to Mrs. Blake. She has performed her task in a manner to instruct, entertain and delight her readers. Her descriptions of scenery, of towns and cities, of the manners and customs of the people, of their dress and modes of life, are bright and vivid. For the most part they are true to life. Sometimes, perhaps, they are a little too highly colored,—as when she denies that the people are dirty, and their towns filthy, except in places like Chihuahua and Zacatecas where water is scarce. The writer of this was not equally fortunate in finding the people clean. On the contrary the lower classes, the *peones* and the *leperos*, were almost always encrusted with dirt. Perhaps in the rainy season this may be washed off, as the people

live out of doors. But the writer's visit to the country was not in the rainy season. In general, however, the descriptions of picturesque Mexico are as accurate as they are racy and entertaining. To acquaint the reader with political and progressive Mexico is the severer task of Mrs. Sullivan. She has performed it with manifest conscientiousness and ability. It is high but not undeserved praise to say of her work that it will compare favorably with "A Study of Mexico" by Mr. David A. Wells. She does full justice to the Spanish *Conquistadores* in saying of them that "barter and the obtaining of gold, with the employment of religion as a means to that end, is written over every chapter of Spanish rule," and in ascribing all manner of evils to "the rapacity, the hypocrisy and the feudalism of the invaders." But from her views as to the present elevating influence of the Catholic Church many of her readers will dissent.

THE "Life of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, Founder of Deaf-mute Instruction in America" (Henry Holt & Co.), by his son, Edward Miner Gallaudet, is a good specimen of the traditional pious and eulogistic biography. Before we are told anything of the subject, we are treated to a long account of his ancestry and of his brothers. Further on, we are informed at great length of what he did not do, but might have done, and of the positions he did not accept, but might have had. Almost everywhere the narrative lacks warmth and color and interest. We do not see the man, but only his wraith. Much space is devoted to the stories of a Moorish prince and of the King of Siam. On several occasions we are favored with copies of mediocre verses, either composed by the insane or adapted to them. Some of Mr. Gallaudet's letters cover from sixteen to twenty pages of print; but the correspondence cited is by no means limited to the letters of Mr. Gallaudet. The book contains some fifty pages of letters from other persons in different parts of the world on sundry topics more or less related to the subject. Among these is a bungling English composition from the King of Siam, and one from an eminent Chinaman who visited the Gallaudet family and thought it a charming one. With the latter epistle we have given us a hymn which Mr. Gallaudet spent a wakeful night in composing for this "mandarin of high rank in his own country." But Mr. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, in spite of his disputed descent from the doges of Venice, in spite of his intimate relations with a Moorish prince, a Siamese king, a Chinese mandarin, "the black missionary from Africa, and the white diplomat from Europe," in spite of his unfortunate habit of "dropping into poetry" in the watches of the night, and his son's still more unfortunate habit of publishing his strains, was a worthy man who devoted a large part of his life to earnest work for "the children of silence,"—as he delights to call the deaf and dumb,—and another large part to the religious instruction of the insane. His charity was unsectarian in its scope, and his philanthropy was as broad as the world. An index would add much value to the book.

THE American publishers of Lander's "Imaginary Conversations" and "Pericles and Aspasia" (Roberts) have completed their series of the prose writings of this author by the preparation of a vol-

ume containing "The Pentameron," "The Citation and Examination of William Shakspeare," the minor prose pieces, and the criticisms on Theocritus, Catullus, and Petrarca. Few books could be more welcome than this. The two immortal works which form the principal contents of the volume have been heretofore beyond the reach of most readers, owing to the great cost of the English editions. Separate editions have, in fact, been practically unobtainable, and both the incomplete two-volume collection and the complete eight-volume collection of Landor's works have long been out of print, and held at a high price by those booksellers into whose hands copies have occasionally fallen. In consequence of this, a great English classic has remained unread, in his most remarkable works, for years. Nearly everyone who writes about Landor finds occasion to say, in one way or another, that he is not, and is never likely to be, a popular writer. Possibly this is true; but it is also true that he has not had a fair chance with the present generation. In this country, at least, his entire prose writings may now be had in acceptable, although unfortunately not quite uniform, editions. If the publishers will now be sufficiently enterprising to add one more volume to their series, a volume including all of Landor's poetical work, they will earn the warm gratitude of every lover of noble literature.

THE little book, "How Men Propose," is not, as some might infer, a treatise on the marriage proposal, but a collection of love-scenes from prominent works of fiction, showing how this delicate subject is dealt with by various well-known authors. The selections are made with fine taste and tact, by Agnes Stevens; and the result is an uncommonly charming book—one in which a happy idea is most happily executed. Every extract tells its own full story, without any help from the compiler other than that lent by her skill in choosing just the right passages needed to complete the situation, and no more. More than a hundred novelists are represented, by from one to five extracts each. For aiding the force of comparison, the selections are arranged in several categories, as "The Youthful Proposal," "The Successful Proposal," etc., and they gain decidedly in interest thereby. As might well be supposed, some highly amusing contrasts are brought out,—as, for instance, between the styles of Miss Burney and Mrs. Burnett, Richardson and Howells, Disraeli and Kirkland, Scott and Frank Stockton. But each, romanticist or realist, gets through the scene in his own fashion, as people evidently do in real life. We see in the book how much of the interest of fiction, as of life, revolves about the central theme of love. He loved her, he declared his love; she accepted, or did not accept,—such is the burden of the tale, in which all fiction, as all human life, repeats itself, and is "but the same rehearsal of the past." Whether for its portrayal of life and character, for a study of literary style, or read simply for diversion, the book is a most enticing and delightful one.

MRS. SARAH K. BOLTON, in her "Famous American Statesmen" (Crowell), gives a readable account of ten of the foremost men in our history. The author has the art of packing a great deal of information into short and pithy sentences. She has, also, the art of selecting material. The quotations

are apposite and brief, the details are interesting and impressive, the language is simple and concrete. Whatever flaws may be detected in the manner, the matter is always excellent. The book will be useful to any who wish a summary of the most important facts relating to Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Hamilton, Jackson, Webster, Clay, Sumner, Grant, and Garfield. The young, especially, will find in its pages both pleasure and instruction. Lincoln has already been treated by the same author in her "Poor Boys Who Became Famous." An index and a bibliography, without adding much to the size of such a volume, would add greatly to its value.

THIS is the decade of "Series," in history, biography, and economics; and the reading public is being admirably provided for thereby. The most recent claimant upon our attention, the "International Statesmen Series" (Lippincott), starts out well with lives of Palmerston and Beaconsfield by Lloyd C. Sanders and T. E. Kebbel. The word "brilliant" applies equally well to these two Englishmen in their political careers, and sets them apart from the great number of English statesmen of whom a somewhat slower and probably somewhat sounder policy was characteristic. Both, again, displayed their rather pyrotechnic gifts and made their reputations for posterity in foreign policy. Both were—for Englishmen—remarkably fluent speakers, and both were parliamentarians of the first order. The time for writing biographies of either that shall be permanent contributions to literature has not yet come; but there has been a need of compendious statements of fact in regard to both, which these little volumes admirably meet. Both are largely a mere narrative of lives which are full of incident and interest; but such criticism as is given—more largely in the life of Beaconsfield—is in the main impartial and judicious. Neither of them bears comparison, however, as a work of literary art, with many of the admirable sketches in the "American Statesmen" series. They are the work of the compiler rather than of the critic.

IN his "Colloquia Latina" (Heath and Co.) Mr. B. L. D'Ooge offers to the teacher of Latin a means of imparting new life and zest to a study that often seems somewhat dull and dead—the elementary study of Latin idiom. This little work will prove not only helpful as a text-book, but suggestive as a guide to subsequent practice of a similar kind. Conversational practice, even if not very frequent or extensive, will break the ice of unfamiliarity that chills and oppresses so many young hearts in their struggles with the intricacies of the Latin grammar, and with the construction of stately classic sentences. The book before us is composed of thirty short and familiar dialogues carefully graded. Each dialogue is accompanied by suggestive notes and questions, and by references to the beginners' books now most in use as well as to the standard grammars. The dialogues are lively and interesting, and though they often touch upon some classical theme, they will quite as frequently supply the student with Latin equivalents for his own idiomatic English or his darling slang. Such titles as *Cyclops et Galatea* and *Duo Vices Americani* suggest something of the character of the dialogues. The book is as full of the life of to-day as it is of the otto of antiquity.

A USEFUL little hand-book on "The History and the Constitution of the United States," by Principal W. W. Rupert of the High-School at Pottstown, Penn., is published by Ginn & Co. The first portion consists of a bibliography of American history, suitable for schoolboys, which is well selected. An admirable feature is a price list. Our only criticism is that there is not sufficient indication as to the comparative merit of books cited. The latter portion is a brief commentary on the Constitution, paragraph by paragraph, indicating cause of adoption or ultimate bearings of the provision. This comment is necessarily brief and in simple phrase, as intended for academic classes. The Twelfth Amendment, concerning the election of the President, should have been given in the comment upon the original provision, and the Tenure of Office Act and its repeal in 1887 should have been mentioned in connection with Presidential powers.

WHEN Dr. Ellerslie Wallace's "Amateur Photographer" (Porter & Coates) first appeared, four years ago, we had occasion to commend it highly as a reliable manual for the beginner. In its new edition the work more than holds its own, and it is probably the best book of the sort to be had. It contains a great deal of matter in very little space, and is brought fully up to the times by the discussion of such subjects as hydrochinon development and magnesium flash-light photography. In its new leather covers it presents a very neat appearance, and ought to be in the hands of every amateur.

LOVERS of sacred music which is especially rich in harmony and in its pure devotional quality will find it in "Hymns and Tunes as Sung at St. Thomas's Church, New York"—an attractive volume, from the press of Harper and Brothers. The music is composed and adapted by George William Warren, the well-known organist. There are about fifty hymns and tunes in the collection. The hymns are chiefly those which are familiar and dear to Christian people, and the tunes are all of a high order of church music.

TOPICS IN LEADING PERIODICALS.

NOVEMBER, 1888.

Ainu Family-Life. J. K. Goodrich. *Popular Science*.
 Altruism Economically Considered. C. W. Smiley. *Pop. Sci.*
 Arnold, Matthew. Augustine Birrell. *Scribner*.
 Athletic Christianity in Am. Colleges. T. G. Frost. *Andover*.
 Atkinson, Edward. *Popular Science*.
 Boston in 1741. Justin Winsor. *Mag. Am. History*.
 Boston Painters. Wm. H. Downes. *Atlantic*.
 Bourbons, "After-Suppers" of the. *Atlantic*.
 College Work, Economy in. John Trowbridge. *Atlantic*.
 Culture and Creed. E. H. Crosby. *Andover*.
 Economic Discussion, Recent. A. B. Woodford. *Dial*.
 Elk-hunting in the Rockies. G. O. Shields. *Harper*.
 Factory-Life. Lillie B. C. Wyman. *Atlantic*.
 Fiction, Morality in. Edgar Saltus. *Lippincott*.
 Fiction, Recent. W. M. Payne. *Dial*.
 Flying Machines. Joseph Le Conte. *Popular Science*.
 Four-Handed Sinners. L. Oswald. *Popular Science*.
 France, A New, in New England. *Mag. American History*.
 Fredericksburg, Texas. Lee C. Hurley. *Mag. Am. History*.
 French Manners. W. C. Brownell. *Scribner*.
 Ghent, Treaty of. Thomas Wilson. *Mag. Am. History*.
 Gravelotte to Sedan. Philip H. Sheridan. *Scribner*.
 Hebrides, The. Elizabeth R. Fennell. *Harper*.
 House, Evolution of. J. Max Hark. *Andover*.
 Human Life, Prolongation of. N. Hammond. *Pop. Science*.
 Independence, Eve of. John Fluke. *Atlantic*.
 Indian Women, Life of. R. C. Temple. *Popular Science*.
 Ireland, Legislative Systems of. W. F. Allen. *Dial*.
 Job, Book of. J. F. Gerring. *Andover*.
 Memories of Fifty Years. Lester Wallace. *Scribner*.
 N. Y. Real Estate Exchange. R. Wheatley. *Harper*.
 New Italy, Makers of. W. R. Thayer. *Atlantic*.

New Orleans Bench and Bar in 1823. C. Gayarré. *Harper*.
 Northern Folk Lore. Aubertine W. Moore. *Dial*.
 Paleolithic Man in America. W. J. McGee. *Pop. Science*.
 Paris, Museum of the History of. Theo. Child. *Harper*.
 Protection, Effects of. C. S. Ashley. *Popular Science*.
 Railroad Men, Every-day Life of. B. B. Adams. *Scribner*.
 Religious Thought in England. C. C. Starbuck. *Andover*.
 Sense, Problematical Organs of. John Lubbock. *Pop. Sci.*
 Socialism in the Church of Eng. W. D. P. Bliss. *Andover*.
 St. Lawrence, The Lower. C. H. Farnham. *Harper*.
 Sun-Power and Growth. Julius Stinde. *Popular Science*.
 Tennessee. Wm. H. Smith. *Dial*.
 Thompson, John R. Diary of. *Lippincott*.
 Tortoise, Great Southern. N. S. Shaler. *Popular Science*.
 Tarnum, Gen. Jos. B. Autobiography of. *Mag. Am. Hist.*
 Winter Resorts. A. W. Greeley. *Scribner*.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following list includes all books received by THE DIAL during the month of October, 1888.]

ILLUSTRATED GIFT BOOKS.

Memoirs of Count Grammont. By Anthony Hamilton. Edited, with Notes, by Sir Walter Scott. With a Portrait of the Author and Thirty-Three Etchings by L. Boisson, on India paper, from Original Compositions by C. Delort. Limited Edition. Unclut. 4to, pp. 336, xxxvi. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$18.00.
Ranch Life and the Hunting-Trail. By Theodore Roosevelt, author of "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman." Beautifully Illustrated by Frederic Remington. Folio, pp. 183. Canvas covers, gilt edges. The Century Co. \$5.
The Courtship of Miles Standish. By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. With Illustrations by Boughton, Merrill, Reinhart, Perkins, and others. Folio, pp. 84, iv. Gilt top. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$6.00.
Days Serene. Beautifully Illustrated by Margaret MacDonald Pullman. Oblong folio. Gilt edges. Lee & Shepard. \$3.00.
The Book of Christmas: Descriptive of the Customs, Ceremonies, Traditions, Superstitions, Fun, Feeling, and Festivities of the Christmas Season. By Thomas K. Hervey. Illustrated by R. Seymour. Extra, gilt top. 16mo, pp. 356, vi. Roberts Bros. \$2.00.
Milton's Paradise Lost. Illustrated by Gustave Doré. Edited, with Notes and a Life of Milton, by Robert Vaughn, D.D. Gilt edges. Large 4to, pp. 329, lxiii. Cassell & Co. \$4.00.
Dante's Inferno. Translated by the Rev. Henry Francis Cary, M.A., from the Original of Dante Alighieri. Illustrated with the Designs of M. Gustave Doré. New Edition. With Critical and Explanatory Notes, Life of Dante, and Chronology. Gilt edges. Large 4to, pp. 183, xxiv. Cassell & Co. \$4.00.
Purgatory and Paradise. Translated by the Rev. Henry Francis Cary, M.A., from the Original of Dante Alighieri. Illustrated with the Designs of M. Gustave Doré. New Edition. With Critical and Explanatory Notes. Gilt edges. Large 4to, pp. 337, xii. Cassell & Co. \$4.00.
The Bible Gallery. Illustrated by Gustave Doré, with Memoir of Doré, and Descriptive Letter-press, by Talbot W. Chambers, D.D. Gilt edges. Large 4to. Cassell & Co. \$4.00.
Embroidery and Lace: Their Manufacture and History from the Remotest Antiquity to the Present Day. A Hand-book for Amateurs, Collectors, and General Readers. By Ernest Lefebvre. Translated and Annotated by Allan S. Cole. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 326, x. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$3.50.
The Story of Mary the Mother. Compiled by Rose Porter. Beautifully Illustrated. Gilt edges. 8vo, pp. 88. D. Lothrop Co. \$3.00.
Marine Painting. With 16 Colored Plates. By Walter W. May, H. L. Small 4to, pp. 65. Cassell & Co. \$2.50.
The Good Things of Life. Fifth Series. Oblong 4to, pp. 64. Gilt edges. Frederick A. Stokes & Bro. \$2.50.
Warwick Brookes's Pencil-Pictures of Child-Life. With Biographical Reminiscences by Letherbrow. 24 Wood Engravings from Pictures by Warwick Brookes. Extra, gilt edges. 16mo, pp. 76. D. Lothrop Co. \$1.25.
My Garden. By Simeon Tucker Clark. Illustrated by Lena J. Ringneberg and F. Schuyler Mathews. Parchment. Oblong folio. S. E. Casino. \$2.00.
Tales of King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table. By Margaret Vere Farrington. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 276, vi. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.00.
Coast Sketches. By Louis K. Harlow. 7 Etchings on Japan paper, with Descriptive Text. Oblong 4to, unbound, in paper cover. S. E. Casino. \$2.50.
Thames Sketches With Pen and Needle. By Louis K. Harlow. 9 Etchings on Japan paper, with Descriptive Text. Heavy paper cover, with Etching on satin. Oblong 4to. Unbound. S. E. Casino. \$2.00.
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BIOGRAPHY—HISTORY.

- Men and Measures of Half a Century.** Sketches and Comments. By Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury in the Administration of Presidents Lincoln, Johnson, and Arthur. 8vo, pp. 542, xxv. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$4.00.
- Franklin in France.** From Original Documents, most of which are now published for the first time. By Edward E. Hale and Edward E. Hale, Jr. Part II. The Treaty of Peace and Franklin's life till his Return. Three newly engraved Portraits and numerous Illustrations. 8vo, pp. 470, xlii. Roberts Bros. \$3.
- A History of Charles the Great (Charlemagne).** By J. I. Mombert, D.D., author of "Hand-book of the English Versions," "Great Lives," etc. With Portrait. 8vo, pp. 561, xi. D. Appleton & Co. \$5.00.
- Letters from Dorothy Osborne to Sir William Temple, 1652-1654.** Edited by Edward Abbott Parry (Barister at Law). With two Etched Portraits. Uncut. 8vo, pp. 332. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$2.50.
- Omitted Chapters of History Disclosed in the Life and Papers of Edmund Randolph,** Governor of Virginia; First Attorney-General United States; Secretary State. By Moncure D. Conway. Steel Portrait. 8vo, pp. 401. Gilt top. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3.00.
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- Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.** Edited and Annotated by Reuben G. Thwaites. Vol. IX. 8vo, pp. 548, xlii. Madison: State Printers.

ESSAYS—BELLES-LETTRES.

- Essays of Elia.** By Charles Lamb. 2 vols. 24mo, pp. 360 and 337. "Knickerbocker Nuggets." G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.00.
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REFERENCE—EDUCATIONAL—SCIENCE.

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- Chambers's Encyclopedia.** A Dictionary of Universal Knowledge. New Edition. Vol. II. Beaumont & Co. 4to, pp. 828. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$3.00.
- The Publishers' Trade List Annual for 1888.** The Latest Catalogues of American Book Publishers; preceded by a Complete List, by Authors, Titles, and Subjects, of Books recorded in "The Publishers' Weekly," from July, 1887, to June, 1888; and by the American Educational Catalogue for 1888. Sixteenth Year. 4to, pp. 3039. Office of "The Publishers' Weekly." \$2.00.
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